(62

PROPOSALS

Humbly offered to the Honourable the Commons *of* England *Assembled in Parliament, prepared the three Sessions last past, and now again presented by* William Way, *with Five others, well experienced in the Trade hereafter mentioned, who were the first Proposers of this Matter; for the raising of neer* Two Millions, *per Ann. on the* Woollen Manufacture *us'd in this Kingdom, and in the Dominion of* Wales, *and about* One Million *on the Stock in hand, as a present Supply to carry on the War against* France, *which will not prejudice, but rather advance our* Trade *both Foreign and Domestick.*

The following Methods being observed, *viz.*

1. A Strict Prohibition of the Exportation of *White Cloaths*, will very much improve our Trade both at Home and Abroad, it being well known that there hath been yearly transported by *Bayes, Northern Kersies, &c.* above 200000 Cloaths, or Pieces, which hath been carried to the *Netherlands*. and there Dressed, Dyed and Shipped to *Spain, Portugal, &c.* So it is obvious, were they Dressed and Dyed at Home, a mighty Advantage would accrew to the Merchants in Importing, Buying and Selling of Dye-Stuff, and to the Subjects in general, in preparing such materials, Dying, Fulling and Packing, *&c.* To prove that an Imposition on the *Woollen Manufacture* will not be Grievous but Advantageous, it is well known in Trade, that a Rise on a *Commodity* is an Advantage to the Retayler.

2. By having of our *Cloaths, Stuffs, Stockins, Hats*, &c. carefully Sealed by Officers appointed for that purpose, with a Distinction between the *Right Good* and what is *Defective*, laying a severe Penalty on any Officer that neglects his Duty, will give great Reputation to the *Manufactory* abroad, as well as a general Advantage to the Subjects at Home.

A Rebate, or Draw-back, may be made out of the *Custom-House* to part, or the whole paid on the Account of this Imposition, as it shall seem meet to your Honours, by which means the Merchants may sell his Goods in any

'62 ... 289, 90

Foreign

Foreign parts, as if the Impoſition was not laid, and to a greater Reputation, the Goods being as before Examined, ſo that the Tax will only lie at Home.

That all Drapers, Cloathiers, Factors, Hoſiers, Hatters, &c. pay the Duty impoſed within weeks after an Account taken of all the preſent ſtock of Goods they have Ready-made, they cannot put a ſtop to the preſent Trade, which otherwiſe they may do to their own private Advantage, this will raiſe his Majeſty a great Summ of Ready-money for his preſent Occaſion; and this will be no more Loſs to the Draper, Clothier, Hoſier, Hatter, &c. than the ſealed Paper is to the Lawyers and Attornies who are paid by their Clients. We find in the laſt Seſſions of Parliament, that there was a Motion made touching this *Impoſition*, but nothing coming to perfection (as we have been informed) for want of Particulars how to lay it, and how to gather the Tax; but we have for above theſe three Years laſt paſt been induſtrious to ſettle this point, ſome of the Honourble Members of Parliament having had ſome of our Particulars ſo long, and ſome ſince, as alſo ſome have fallen into Mens hands that have ſet up to be the firſt Contrivers, which know little of it. Therefore we think fit to inform your Honours, that we know the true uſe of the *Wool* to the beſt Advantage, from the Sheeps back, to the Clothier, Merchant and Retaler's hands, but are very unwilling to publiſh our Method for the uſe of other pretenders; but are ready to ſhew the Particulars where to lay it, and how to gather it, for the beſt Advantage for the King and Subjects, when this Honourable Houſe ſhall command us ſo to do, as likewiſe to Anſwer all manner of Objections.